Gas-based private sector power projects

*22. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any gas-based private sector power projects have been cleared during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of gas-based power in the overall power generation at present in the private and public sector and the estimated share thereof at the end of the 8th Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) No gas based private sector project was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority during the last three months i·e·, from December, 1994 to February, 1995.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total share of gas capacity as on 28.2.1995 in the private and public sector is 6.55 per cent of the total installed capacity of 79817.2 MW. The share of private sector is 0.4 per cent and balance 6.15 per cent is in public sector including central sector. With likely capacity addition of 20729.7 MW during 8th Plan, the total installed capacity of the country will be 89372 MW and the total share of gas capacity may be 7.21 per cent (6442 MW) comprising 0.65 per cent in private and 6.55 per cent in public sector.

Rise in Inflation

*23. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concrete steps initiated by Government to check the inflation that has risen from 6 per cent to nearly 11.5 per cent;

(b) the reasons for the sudden rise in the rate of inflation; and

(c) how far the policies of Government are responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The annual rate of inflation on point-to-point basis, as measured by the wholesale price index, had fallen to 6.9 per cent by the first week of July 1993. It then rose to 12 per cent by April 1994 and declined to 8.4 per cent in October, 1994. Thereore, it has risen again to 11.5 per cent as on Feb. 18, 1995.

A number of steps of demand and supply management have been taken by the Government to contain the renewed inflationary pressures. A ceiling has been placed on the Central Government's borrowing from the RBI through the issue of ad-hoc Treasury Bills. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was raised from 14 to 15 per cent CRR was imposed on FCNR (Banks) and Non-Resident/Non-Repatriable Accounts. Interest rate on Non-Resident External Rupee accounts was reduced. The FCNR (A) Scheme was eliminated in a phased manner. RBI also conducted open market sales of Government securities to mop up the excess liquidity. In February 1995, the maximum interest rate on commercial Bank deposits was increased from 10 to 11 per cent. Open market sales of nearly 0.4 million tonnes of wheat and about 3 lakh tonnes of rice were conducted as part of the price stabilisation policy. As a result, the price of wheat remained stable throughout 1994-95. Sugar imports were placed on OGL at

nil duty and 10 lakh tonnes of sugar were imported on Government account for distribution through PDS, thus bringing down the price of sugar substantially since May 1994. To moderate the increase in edible oil prices, import of palmolein oil was placed on OGL. For PDS 1.07 lakh tonnes of palmolein oil was imported on public account. With effect from March 1995, all major edible oils except coconut oil have been placed on OGL on reduced duty of 30 per cent Raw cotton imports were placed on OGL at zero duty to supplement the shortfall in domestic production of cotton.

The facts that have operated during the year in fuelling the inflationary pressures are: the spilover effects of the high fiscal deficit in 1993-94 and production shortfalls in key commodities such as sugar, cotton, jute and causing short-term supply imbalances. There was also the cumulative impact of large increasts in the minimum support prices continuously for the past three years resulting in higher primary product prices thus generating upward pressures on prices of wage goods. Another significant factors was the high growth of monetery variables owing to the strong build up of the foreign exchange reserves.

राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की इकाइयों को हुआ घाटा/लाभ

***24. श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान राष्ट्रीय वस्त्र निगम की प्रत्येक इकाई को कितना-कितना घाटा/लाभ हुआ ;

(ख) घाटा होने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) घाटे में चल रही इकाइयों को अर्थक्षम बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं अथवा उठाये जाने का विचार है ; और

(घ) घाटे में चल रही मिलो के कर्मकारों को वैकल्पिक रोजगार की व्यवस्था करने के संबंध में सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) : (क) मिलों के नामों तथा वर्ष 1993-94 में मिलों को हुए लाभ घाटे को दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण संलग्न है (नीचे देखिए) ।

(ख) एन०टी०सी० मिलों को अनेक कारणों से घाटे हो रहे हैं जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ पुरानी तथा अप्रचलित मशीनें, अपर्याप्त आधुनिकीकरण, कार्यशील पूंजी की जटिल कमी, कम क्षमता उपयोग, उच्च मानव मशीन अनुपात आदि शामिल हैं ।

(ग) वस्त्र अनुसंधान संघों ने 2005.72 करोड़ रु० के निवेश से 79 मिलों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए एक योजना बनाई थी । इस आधुनिकीकरण योजना में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ 36 गैर-अर्थक्षम मिलों को 18 अर्थक्षम मिलों में मिला करके उनका पुनर्निर्माण करने की परिकल्पना है। एन.टी.सी. विषयक श्रम मंत्रालय की विशेष त्रिपक्षीय समिति ने सिफारिश की है कि एन.टी.सी. मिलों के साथ-साथ उसकी अधिग्रहीत मिलों को वस्त्र अनुसंधान संघों के प्रस्ताव अनुसार आधुनिकीकरण द्वारा अर्थक्षम बनाया जा सकता है ।

एन.टी.सी. के लिए सर्वांगगीण सुधार योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है । चूंकि एन.टी.सी. के 8 सहायक निगमों के मामले बी.आई.एफ.आर. को भेजे गए हैं इस लिए जो कोई भी योजना अन्तिम रूप से उभर कर सामने आएगी उसके क्रियान्वयन से पहले बी.आई.एफ.आर. की सहमति भी प्राप्त करनी होगी ।

(घ) एन.टी.सी. अपने वेशी कार्यबल को सुव्यवस्थित करने के लिए स्वैच्छिक सेवा निवृत्ति योजना क्रियान्वित कर रहा है । इस योजना में कर्मचारी को सामान्य अन्तिम लाभों सहित स्वैच्छिक सेवा निवृत्ति के समय उसकी सेवा के पूरे किए गए प्रत्येक वर्ष के लिए 1–1/2 महीने की परिलब्धियों अथवा मासिक परिलब्धियों के